MENTOR

From 6A

"These students need to know that someone cares about them," said Shipp. "They need to be sure that someone will give them a helping hand."

Student Kristie Stone came to Davidson Alternative from Kings Mountain Middle School. Stone is well aware of the assistance she's received.

The mentors at Davidson School help me read better," Stone said.

Stone's mentor is Lestenia McDowell, another volunteer who attended the original Davidson School.

"Kristie is a good student, a bright student," said McDowell. "We work together nearly every day to help get her back in regular school

One of the most important aspects of the Davidson Alternative School is the oneon-one attention that student's receive. There are about one dozen students in the program, and about an equal number of mentors. Mentors who give their time and energy are; Lestenia McDowell, James Thombs, Norma Black, Yvonne Whitehead, Howard Shipp, Marie Burris, Rebecca Wright, Hazelene Abernathy, Elizabeth McGinnis, Karl Jenkins, and George Hatch.

Sponsored by the United Way of Shelby and the Kings Mountain Kiwanis Club, the Davidson Alternative School reading mentor program is one of the most worthwhile things going. If you would like to know how to lend a hand, call the school at 734-5677.

April 24 will be a historic day at Peace College as alumna Laura Carpenter Bingham is installed as the College's ninth

president. Bingham is the second woman and first alumna to hold the office in the College's 142year history.

With the theme of "Fulfilling the Promise of Peace," inauguration activities will take place in con-

junction with the College's traditional Alumnae Weekend events April 23-25. President Bingham because the College's ninth president ton July 19, 1998. A Kings Mountain native, she succeeded

Dr. Garrett Briggs, who retired

in June 1998 after 10 years of

"We encourage alumnae and friends of Peace College to mark their calendars for a wonderful weekend that will celebrate our past and inaugurate our future," said Carol Bilbro of Raleigh, chair of the Inauguration Committee and vice chair of the Board of Trustees. "The inauguration of

our ninth president presents an incredible opportunity to declare our strengths as a fouryear college, to bring together and renew ties within our Peace family, and to set forth a new vision for our future."

Inauguration festivities will begin on Monday, April 19 with a concert by pianist and Peace faculty member Ray Kilburn, violinist Hsiao-mei Ku and cellist Leonid Zilper as part of the Mary Howard Clark Arts and Lectures Series. The concert will

take place in the Browne-McPherson Music Building's Kenan Recital Hall at 8 p.m.

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the College's planned stateof-the-art academic building will be held on site Friday, April 23 at noon. Construction is scheduled to begin in May 1999 on the 27,300-square foot facility, which will double the classroom space on campus.

An Arts and Lectures Symposium will be held on Friday, April 23 at 2 p.m. in Kenan Recital Hall. Duke **Endowment Chair Mary Trent** Semans will deliver the keynote address titled "Woman's Adventure." Semans is chair of the Duke Endowment's board of trustees, vice chair of the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation and Trustee emerita of the Duke University Board of Trustees. A reception will follow.

ner w begins at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 23. This black tie optional event will include entertainment by singer Sunshine Romola and Michael Redding. This event is open by invitation

The focal point f activities on Saturday, April 24 will be the installation ceremony at 11 a.m. on the College Green. Among those scheduled to participate are Gov. Jim Hunt, UNC System President Molly Broad and former Lt. Gov. Robert B. Jordan. An inaugural luncheon hosted by the Alumnae Association will be held on th College Green immediately following the installation ceremony. The instal-

lation is open to the public.
The weekend will also be filled with traditional Alumnae Weekend activities, including the 50-year Club Celebration Breakfast, Alumnae Association An inaugural celebration din- annual meeting and chapel service on Saturday, and Peace College Day at First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, April 25.

For more information on Peace College's Inaugural and Alumnae Weekend, contact Elizabeth Skok, vice president for external relations at (919) 508-2205, or Claire Poole, alumnae director, at (919) 508-2341.

Peace College, located in downtown Raleigh, is a liberal arts and sciences college for women. Founded in 1857, the College offers baccalaureate and associate degree programs. Peace College awards more than a half-million dollars annually in scholarships through more than 300 individual awards. Visit the College's web site at www.peace.edu.

Bridges KMHS Teacher of the Month

BY ALAN HODGE Staff Writer

BINGHAM

Kings Mountain High School's Teacher of the Month Dianna Bridges is as caring in her counselor's office as she is tough on opponents in the gym. A sixteen-year veteran of Kings Mountain High, Bridges handles the dual duties of guidance counselor and coach for the girl's volley ball and basketball teams with professional aplomb.

Bridges is one of those folks who knew from an early age what career path they wanted to follow.

"Even as a child I always liked being in school," Bridges says. "I am lucky to be able to say that every morning I get up and am eager to go to my job."

Bridges path down the edu-cational trail has led her from graduation at Burns High School, to a bachelor's degree from UNC-Chapel Hill, to a master's in counseling from Winthrop University. Currently, Bridges is working on a master's in school administration

from Gardner-Webb University.

Besides her academic achievements, Bridges is also a standout in the sports arena. As coach of the Kings Mountain High School girl's volleyball team, she saw her troops win the state AAA volleyball championship. Bridges has coached most of her academic career in some capacity or another.

Bridges' current job as guidance counselor has been rewarding.

"I like to think of myself as a

"big ear." Bridges said. "I want

to be someone that the students can turn to and develop a relationship with that will help them.'

Not one to stand still, Bridges nas plans for her future in edu-

"My goal for the future is to be a principal at some level of secondary education," said Bridges. "I think that I've grown to a point professionally where this is now possible."

A person happy to see students excel in the classroom or on the field, Bridges expects the best from her professional charges as well as herself.



DIANA BRIDGES

Happy Birthday Candi Chapman The Big 30!! March 30th

We Love You!



At-risk students receive help from adult mentors at Davidson School.

See page 6A.

Bennett Student of Month

Sophomore Chris Bennett has been selected Kings Mountain High School's Student of the Month for March.

Bennett is the son of Mike and Carla Bennett.

His teachers give him high marks as a student and a per-

"Chris Bennett is an exemplary student," said his English II Advanced Honors teacher, Hannah Cole. "He is a joy in the classroom because he is polite and hard working. All of this is joined with an intelligent, reflective thinking ability. He is

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The Diamond Leader

CHRIS BENNETT

an excellent writer and an asset

to the class." Liza Dellinger, his Business/Enterpreneurship teacher, added, "I have had the opportunity to get to know

Chris Bennett as a student over the past two years. During this time he has proven to e a wonderful addition to my classes. Consistently he maintains a positive attitude, is always willing to help, and promotes cooperation within the class. Not only does he exhibit academic excellence but he also is involved with various clubs and athletics at our high school. Chris is a wonderful representative of Kings Mountain High School's stu-

Bennett's Chemistry I teacher, Randy Rhyne, noted, "Chris is a great student that is always prepared for class. Chris is a very enthusiastic member of my chemistry class."

Swimming teacher Dave Farquharson said, "Chris has done a great job teaching middle school swimmers. He works hard and does a good job with the younger students. It's been great having him in class."

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BAINBRIDGE From 6A

that it will help me in school when my history class discusses William Bainbridge. I will be very proud to tell that he was my relative and that last but not least he served on the board of the United States Naval Commissioners and helped organize the first school for Naval officers. From 1824 to 1827 he

served as president of the Board of Navy Commissioners. William Bainbridge died at the age of 59 in Philadelphia on July 27, 1833.

He will be remembered for a long time to come because he played a very important part in American history. I have often told my grandfather that I would really like to attend the Naval Academy that my ancestor William Bainbridge helped

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